

**THAT WHICH IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. A method of screening human subjects for increased risk of disease in response to stress, said method comprising:

5 determining the presence of at least one serotonin transporter gene promoter long allele in a subject;

the presence of at least one long allele serotonin transporter gene promoter genotype indicating that said subject is at increased risk of disease in response to stress.

10 2. A method according to claim 1, wherein said disease is cardiovascular disease, infectious disease, cancer, autoimmune disease, delayed wound healing, and gastrointestinal disease.

15 3. A method according to claim 1, wherein said disease is cancer.

4. A method according to claim 1, wherein said disease is delayed wound healing.

20 5. A method according to claim 1, wherein said disease is gastrointestinal disease.

6. A method of screening human subjects for increased risk of infectious disease, said method comprising:

25 determining the presence of at least one serotonin transporter gene promoter long allele in a subject;

the presence of at least one long allele serotonin transporter gene promoter genotype indicating that said subject is at increased risk of infectious disease.

30 7. A method according to claim 6, wherein said infectious disease is a disease of viral, bacterial, protozoal, spirochetal, fungal, or other microbial origin.

8. A method according to claim 6, wherein said infectious disease is the common cold.

9. A method according to claim 6, wherein said infectious disease is influenza.

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10. A method according to claim 6, wherein said infectious disease is pneumonia.

11. A method according to claim 6, wherein said infectious disease is  
10 *Pneumocystis carinii* pneumonia.

12. A method according to claim 6, wherein said infectious disease is *staphylococcus* infection.

13. A method according to claim 6, wherein said infectious disease is Lyme  
15 disease.

14. A method according to claim 6, wherein said infectious disease is  
tuberculosis.

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15. A method according to claim 6, wherein said infectious disease is mononucleosis.

16. A method according to claim 6, wherein said increased risk of infectious  
25 disease is increased risk of infectious disease in response to stress.